

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 /086 W

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R 161703Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2126

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10281

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, IS, IT, EG, EEC

SUBJECT: ARAB INITIATIVE TO SUSPEND ISRAEL FROM UNITED NATIONS

REF: ROME 9876

1. MFA'S MIDDLE EAST OFFICE (DEPUTY CHIEF VENTO) HAS BRIEFED US ON ITALIAN REPRESENTATION TO THE EGYPTIANS ON BEHALF OF THE EC ON THE SUBJECT OF THE POSSIBLE ARAB INITIATIVE TO SUSPECT ISRAEL FROM THE UN. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO CALLED ON SECRETARY OF STATE MOHAMMED RIAD JULY 9 TO CONVEY EC MESSAGE ALONG LINES WE REPORTED IN REFTEL.

2. RIAD NOTED THAT EGYPT WAS NOT SPONSORING SUCH AN INITIATIVE
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AND WAS COOL TO THE IDEA. IN PROMISING TO BRING THE EC

DEMARCHE TO THE ATTENTION OF FOREIGN MINISTER RAHMI AND PRESIDENT SADAT, RIAD NOTED THAT EGYPT FULLY REALIZED THE CONSEQUENCES THAT SUCH A COURSE COULD HAVE. HOWEVER, HE DREW THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION TO THE FACT THAT EGYPT IS EXTREMELY EXPOSED TO CRITICISM IN THE ARAB WORLD, PARTICULARLY FROM THOSE WHO ARE THE MOST MILITANT BUT ALSO LEAST DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE. FURTHERMORE, RIAD STRONGLY HINTED THAT GREATER ISRAELI FLEXIBILITY IN THE CURRENT PERIOD OF NEGOTIATIONS OVER A FURTHER WITHDRAWAL ON THE EGYPTIAN FRONT MIGHT HAVE HELPED IN CONTROLLING THE PRESSURE FROM THOSE WHO ARE LEADING THE CAMPAIGN TO SUSPEND ISRAEL'S UN MEMBERSHIP.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR PLAJA CALLED IN THE ISRAELI AMBASSADOR IN INFORM HIM OF THE EC REPRESENTATION. PLAJA SPECIFICALLY DREW AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION TO RIAD'S HINT ABOUT THE NEED FOR GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON THE PART OF THE ISRAELIS. VOLPE

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